



MY GUITAR GENTLY WEEPS

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Hello From The Editor

Hello and welcome to the March edition of the Western Park Gazette.

In this issue we find out why one of the West End's most iconic shops, and destination business, has moved out of Narborough Rd. We carpe diem as the Romans arrived in Jubilee Square. They brought their own cardboard forum and St George was there too.

There's roadworks in the area to irritate you on Westcotes Drive, the cost of parking has gone up, the Warning Zone life skills charity is looking for some volunteers and last month's Westfields Tennis Club Open Day proved to be a huge success.

In our regular features, Helen Knott has a thing or two to say about keeping your near and dear ones fed and watered during family time. Carey Tunstall has some seasonal advice on how to sow wildflower seeds. There's the latest policing update as local officers continue to tackle our areas issues.

As always the crossword and sudoku are on the inside back page with the answers on our website.

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X @mygazette & Facebook @ourgazette

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To Contact - Call 07939 115 724

e: editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk

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Events Diary

Hall @ St Anne's, Letchworth Rd: Knit & Natter: 1.30pm, 4th Tues. **Weds Club:** 2.30pm, 1st Weds. **Pram Club:** Weds 9.15-11.30am. **Women's Taekwondo:** Thurs 8-9pm taekwondo4all.com **Fri Coffee:** 10am.

Musical Memory Box: 1st & 3rd Tues 2pm. The Grove, Braunstone.

Free Tea/Coffee @ St Paul's Worship Ctr / Community Hub, Kirby Rd Weds, 2- 4pm. T-Top sale. 2nd Sat.

Drop-in: @ St Paul's Worship Ctr. **Talk to local police & support orgs.** 1st Tue monthly. 10-12.

Wonderful Walks on Western Park: Monthly 3rd Sunday. 9.30am start at Hinckley Rd gates.

Glastonbudget: 22-25 May. glastonbudget.org

Leic Cathedral: Mars Installation: Until 8th June.

Riverside Fest: 7/8 June. Bede Park & canal area.

WP Open Gardens: 7/8 June. From St Anne's Hall.

Park To Parks (Talk): 13 June. 8pm St Anne's Hall. £5 on the door. (Welcome drink)

@ De Montfort Hall: Celebrating Celine 29 May.

Legend - Bob Marley: 30 May. Gary Barlow: 5 June.

@ Curve: Ghost Stories & Into The Woods 3-7 June.

Bat Out Of Hell: 9-14 June. **Pig Heart Boy:** 10-14 June

@ Little Theatre: The Mumford & Sons Story: 27 May **Footloose The Musical** 3-7 June.

@ The International: The Jamd: 31 May. **Ain't No Stoppin':** 1 June. **One Leg One Eye:** 11 June.

@ Metal Monocle: Space Patrol, Massasauga, Santiago Kings: 30th May. **V8:** 31 May.

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MY GUITAR GENTLY WEEPS

IntaSound have sold everything from plectrums to percussion to the city's musicians over the last 49 years from their shop on Narborough Road, but now the time has come to move out.

Originally opened as an organ shop in 1976 by Malcolm Wright, it expanded over the years to include many more instruments as well as studio and stage equipment and a large online presence.

Now run by Malcolm's sons, Lloyd and Alex, who feel it's time to move on and take their business to the next level.

Lloyd said: "We've evolved over the years and we've out-grown our premises. We now do a lot more outside stage equipment hire; light, sound, that sort of thing. It's big, heavy stuff and we don't have the space to store it all here and the parking is terrible on Narborough Road. It's a nightmare trying to load up, so we're really excited for the move so we can start from fresh with more display space, a bigger selection and proper parking."

Intasound's last day open on Narborough Road was Sat 10th May and it was busy from the start as friends and customers popped in to say goodbye.

Alex commented: "It was nice so many regular customers and past staff came to see us."

"It's sad in some ways, there's a lot of nostalgia, but were looking forward to the future."

New location: 14 Saffron Way, LE2 6UP *RP*



7th & 8th June 1pm - 5pm

Western Park Open Gardens 2025

Refreshments - Ice Creams - Plant Sale

**Admission: One Day £5 Both Days £8
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⊕ **St. Anne's Church
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OLD TOWN FESTIVAL

A funny thing happened on the way to the forum as the Easter break ended with a spectacular romp through Leicester's early history!

The free Old Town Festival celebrated the city's Roman heritage and St George's Day, effectively killing two dragons with one pilum.



What have the Roman's ever done for us? Well, thousands turned up to find out and get a taste of Roman occupation as the legion camped out near the impressive forum, custom built from carboard and tape, by artist Olivier Grossetête's team.

Roman warrior training, where children learned to march like a legionnaire, wield a sword like a true

centurion, and attack their parents with pointy sticks was a highlight for many young visitors.

For the grown-ups, hands-on archaeology, Roman theatre, artisan craft activities, food and jewellery were all on display or up for grabs as long as you had a purse full of denarius.

Centring on Jubilee Square and the Old Town, the festival featured an urban mosaic workshop at the Guildhall, themed storytelling on the children's book-bus, Morris dancing, face-painting and a medieval dress-up booth for young festival-goers.

A dangerous fire-breathing dragon was on the loose in Cathedral Gardens, alongside stilt-walking jesters, magical wizards and a trio of clumsy knights taking on daring quests.

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WARNING ZONE - RED ALERT

Warning Zone, an educational life skills charity, based in Frog Island, are looking for volunteers to deliver safety lessons to children aged 10-11 years who visit on school trips.

At Warning Zone children hear real life stories and experience learning through interactive zones led by volunteer guides. The students are shown how to keep themselves safe in different scenarios such as fire, arson, railways, personal safety, road safety, phishing, cyber bullying, sharing inappropriate images, grooming and more.

Warning Zone operate two sessions a day, Monday to Friday, throughout the academic year.

The organisation relies on the generosity of their team of volunteers to deliver the lessons and offer fun, interesting and flexible volunteering opportunities. Volunteers range from 16 to 80+ and come from all walks of life. Full training is given and volunteers are able to book online and attend when is convenient to them.



It's an opportunity for those who have retired but are looking to use their existing skills and experience; and those that are at college or university looking to develop their skills and gain work experience.

www.warningzone.org.uk or call **0116 262 9739**

PARK TO PARKS TALK

Now is your chance to trace the history of Leicester's Western Park area from the Domesday Book through the industrial revolution and up to today. Dr Susan Barton will deliver an updated talk on the historic development of the western part of the city, as covered in her book 'Park to Parks'. Featuring new research, this is your chance to follow how the western part of the city developed to what it is now.

Susan is an honorary visiting research fellow at De Montfort University and is a regular speaker at conferences across Europe on a range of historic topics. The event will be raising money for a new children's choir for the community.

Park to Parks: The History of Western Park on Friday 13th June from 8pm at St Anne's Community Hall, Letchworth Road. £5 entry. (Includes free drink on arrival) All welcome.

UK Government's Home Energy Efficiency Scheme – ECO4

IN LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL AREA NOW

NEW FREE BOILER SCHEME

A new Government scheme is available to households with an old “Non-Condensing” boiler. The manufacture of these Non-Condensing boilers was stopped in 2005 as they are very inefficient and will be costing you £100s a year in wasted energy, also parts for Non-condensing boilers are becoming increasingly unavailable.

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KNOTT'S LANDING

What's more stressful than having a toddler in the house? I'll tell you; it's having an older person and a teenager in a house at the same time. You don't realise what a combo like that can do for your stress levels until you've been in that situation.

Bank Holidays can be a time of family gatherings, and I found myself right in it this time. Teenager confined itself to the bedroom to play computer games and loud guitar music while the old person commandeered the remote control and flicked between murder mysteries (who knew there were so many ways to die... I have made notes) and the news at a volume that can probably be heard in space! There's nothing wrong with his hearing though! No sir. He can't hear the loud guitar, or you when you speak to him while standing in the same room and he can't hear the cake tin open anymore, but he'll tell you his hearing is



fine. The teenager however is acutely tuned into the noise of food and appears like magic at the tin lid coming off and if you don't feed him regularly you get to enjoy hangry teen which is so much fun! Then the old one starts to remember all the jobs he's been saving up for you. Stuff that is never just a simple job. So, we crack on with fixing the dishwasher and changing the lightbulbs and end up driving around trying to find a specific bulb for a random fitting and some rubber gloves (Don't ask). We drop the teen near some shops because he's bored and now, we need to spend an hour and a half walking up and down every aisle in the supermarket. The teen appears and is hangry again. He needs feeding before he mutates but he wants a burger, and the old one can't eat burgers without showering himself and everyone in food. Everyone looked at me and asked what we should do and where we were eating. Options were rejected. Compromise was reached and food was eaten and that was the point dear reader where I went for a long walk with a can of gin and tonic to scream into the abyss.




Helen Knott




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COST TO PARK IN LEICESTER GOES UP

The cost of parking in the city has risen as new parking fees and charges came into effect in Leicester's council-run car parks, multi-stores and on-street parking bays.

This increase brings the council into line with similar authorities and private car parking operators and should reduce some of the strain on the council's beleaguered finances.

The revised fee and charges mean that, in council-run city centre car parks, costs will start at £2.50 for a one-hour stay, up from the current £2.

Costs for a three-hour stay will rise from £4 to £5, and from £5 to £6.30 for a four-hour stay.

Standard fees for evening parking in car parks will also be charged, with the cheaper Night Owl rates due to end.

On-street parking bays will see charges rise from £2 to £2.50 for one hour, with varying charges for longer stays depending on the location and free on-street parking on Sundays will stop, with standard rates being charged instead.

It's thought that the changes will bring in an additional £1.1million in parking revenue. Around half of this will cover rising costs in the management, operation and enforcement of parking facilities, with the remaining £600,000 due to be ringfenced to offset budget pressures in highways and transport services.

Westfields Tennis Club Open Day

A huge thank you to everyone who came along to Westfields Tennis Club Open Day to try out tennis and see what we have to offer at our 'hidden gem'.



Our courts were full of children and adults having fun, thanks to you and the sterling efforts of our coach Geri and his helpers Shreya and Shivani, both great juniors.

Now you know where we are in Eastfield Road cul-de-sac, please tell your friends. With 4 savannah courts, 3 with floodlights, in beautiful surroundings with a brick-built clubhouse, we have a lot to offer.

We're joining in with Western Park Open Gardens on 7th & 8th of June, when our coach will be on hand in the afternoon to give further tasted tennis sessions for children and adults alike.

Next year we celebrate 75 years on site, so, if we can welcome more to our friendly family club, we might make it to 100 years! Find out more on our Facebook page or online:

www.westfieldstenniscub.co.uk

Sponsored Article Gina Ward



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DIGGING IT ALL UP!

A £295,000 scheme to improve road crossings at the junction of Blackbird Road and Parker Drive has got underway.

A new signal-controlled pedestrian and cycle crossing, an additional zebra crossing, and the replacement of traffic lights make up the scheme which is linked to new housing on Somerset Avenue.

The work is expected to take 6 months.

WESTCOTES DRIVE 20 MPH ZONE

Work is continuing on a new 20mph zone covering nine residential streets surrounding Westcotes Drive in at a cost of £140,000. The work is expected to be finished by the end of June.

The council consulted 326 households and received 106 replies, less than a third responded, with 88% of those saying they agreed with the proposals.

Westcotes Drive had become a rat-run for traffic trying to bypass Hinckley Road, Fosse Road and Narborough Road during



the rush hour. Its junction with Hinckley Road has been barriered off to traffic, except cycles for around 5 years.

The new layouts, which include narrowing Westcotes Drive and Dulverton Road at their Hinckley Road junctions, are aimed at encouraging traffic heading out of the city to stay on the main road network (Hinckley Road & Wyngate Drive) rather than using Westcotes Drive. The hope is to preserve and improve the amenity of the area by reducing the speed limit along the road.

JEWRY WALL MUSEUM TO OPEN

It might feel like it's taken as long as the Roman occupation to sort out, and at £16.8 million cost just as much, but the Jewry Wall Museum is due to open its doors in July.

Situated just a stone's throw town-wards of West Bridge, visitors will be able to see how the remains of the Roman bath house at Jewry Wall have been incorporated into a contemporary museum, with more than 100 Roman artefacts, all discovered in Leicester and county, along with the latest digital technology helping to bring Leicester's Roman past to life. More at jewrywall.com

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The Herewoode Academy Joins Nova Education Trust

On May 1st The Herewoode Academy (Formerly New College Leicester) became officially integrated into the Nova Education Trust, marking the start of a thrilling new journey. This exciting partnership marks a significant step forward for the academy, building upon its recent renaming and embodying the collective vision of pupils, staff, and parents/carers.

Joining Nova Education Trust marks a significant milestone for The Herewoode Academy. As part of the Trust, the academy will benefit from a wealth of resources, expertise, and collaborative opportunities; a high-quality, inclusive education that transforms the lives of children.

"We are incredibly excited to embark on this new chapter as part of the Nova Education Trust family," says James Aldred, Headteacher of The Herewoode Academy. "This partnership will provide us with the support and resources to further enhance the educational opportunities for our students. We are committed to building on our existing strengths and creating a truly exceptional learning environment where every child can thrive."

Ash Rahman, Chief Executive Officer of Nova Education Trust said: "We are confident that this partnership will be mutually beneficial and will enable us to further our shared goal of transforming the lives of children through education. We look forward to working closely with the academy community to build on their successes and create even greater opportunities for their students."

As part of the Nova Education Trust, The Herewoode Academy is dedicated to providing a well-rounded and inspirational education for all young people. This is achieved by instilling the values of respect, responsibility, resilience, and resourcefulness – values held most dear. The vision for success is driven by placing young people and the community at the heart of the decision-making process.

The academy's commitment to drive excellence aligns perfectly with The Nova Education Trust's mission to empower students and inspire them to reach their full potential.

Nova Education Trust, with a network of academies serving over 12,000 students, has a proven track record of success in supporting schools to enhance educational standards. Currently, 96 per cent of its academies are judged by Ofsted as Good or Outstanding, a substantial improvement from the 47 per cent prior to joining the Trust. Educationally, we go from strength to strength. Nova's Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) performance for Progress 8 and achieving a Grade 5 or above in English and Maths GCSEs across all of its schools is currently ranked as one of the highest in the region. We are highly valued and respected by the Department for Education (DfE), the Local Authorities and other local trusts. This is testament to our brilliant pupils, staff and the communities that we serve. Our trust support and governance is strong and has been externally recognised as amongst the best in the sector, and our organisation is financially stable. We understand and believe that schools belong to their communities – the mission is the same, but the vision may look different in our range of contexts and settings.

Nova Education Trust has recently set out its new and ambitious five-year strategic approach that will see it holistically nurture its children and young people through a series of eight life-enriching experiences, preparing them to thrive in an ever-changing and interconnected world.

The Herewoode Academy looks forward to a bright future within the Nova Education Trust and is committed to continuing to serve its community and provide an outstanding education for all its students.



**The Herewoode
Academy**



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CAREY'S COMPOST CORNER



A wildlife garden is a haven for local species and a great way to support doorstep biodiversity which is something very close to my heart. It doesn't matter if you have a large garden or a modest patch, creating a space for nature can be simple, rewarding, and beneficial to the environment.

Begin with plants that are native to the UK, as they provide the best food and shelter for local wildlife. Wildflowers like cowslips, oxeye daisies or Pyramidal orchid attract bees, butterflies, and other pollinators. In fact you can pick up a packet of scattering seeds for 50p! Native hedgerows such as hawthorn, blackthorn, and dog rose offer nesting and food opportunities for birds and small mammals.



Creating diverse habitats, by using a mix of features to support various species, is how you do it. A pond is great for amphibians, insects, and birds. Even a small water-filled container can make a big difference. Piles of logs, stones, and leaves offer shelter for hedgehogs, frogs, and invertebrates. Let a corner

of your garden grow wild to provide a safe space for creatures to thrive undisturbed and avoid pesticides or chemical fertilisers, as these can harm insects and the animals that feed on them.

If you have the time, space and money, you could install different types of bird feeders and nesting boxes to attract different species, like blue tits, robins and swifts.

It's a different type of garden experience as you provide hedgehog houses or leave gaps in fences for their safe passage. You're regularly topping up ponds, cleaning bird feeders, and refreshing nesting boxes. You're also mowing less often, in spring and summer, to let flowering plants bloom and seed. You could leave a space that isn't mown and incorporate wildflowers to create a natural, rich meadow area while you're composting garden waste to enrich your soil organically and provide a home for decomposers like worms and beetles.

A good way to be involved and stay informed, is to join the Leicestershire and Rutland Nature Trust or citizen science projects like the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch to learn more and track the creatures visiting your garden.

With some thoughtful planning and care, your wildlife garden can become a thriving ecosystem and a peaceful retreat. It's a small but powerful way to reconnect with nature and contribute to the conservation of UK wildlife.

Carey Tunstall

Martin Page

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April/May Police Update

On 29th April a Leicester man was jailed for 12 years at Leicester Crown Court after he was arrested at Fullhurst Avenue Post Office for sending cocaine through the mail.

Zakira Jawaid pleaded guilty in February to supplying class A drugs between 23rd September 2021 and 8th November 2024.

Enquiries revealed he sent parcels via special delivery from the Post Office after police became aware that a package containing cocaine was redirected to a retail store in Glasgow in September last year.

CCTV enquiries carried out at the branch showed Jawaid sending multiple parcels at the same time as the one later seized in Scotland.

A total of 4.6 kilograms of cocaine was found at his home – estimated to be worth around £460,000 and \$24,000 in cryptocurrency.

Investigations are ongoing after a man was taken to hospital with non-life threatening stab wounds, following an incident on Narborough Rd, on 13th April.

Police have spoken with a number of witnesses and continue to establish the full circumstances behind the incident.

Anyone with any information should contact police on 101 quoting incident 384 of 13 April or online at www.police.co.uk

Two suspects were arrested following a fight involving multiple people in the county.

Firearms officers were called to Golf Course Lane in Braunstone at 2.34pm on Thursday 24th April.

It was reported that weapons had been seen but there were no serious injuries.

A 31-year-old woman and a 41-year-old man were arrested on suspicion of causing actual bodily harm and were placed in custody.

Detectives are appealing for information following a robbery on Western Park where a 12-year-old boy was shoved off his pushbike by a group of males, who then stole it.

This was between 11 and 11.30am on Saturday 19 April, when the group, wearing dark clothing and balaclavas approached the boy.

Detective Constable Hannah Wayman is asking for any witnesses on the park at the time to come forward and that park users should remain vigilant and report anything suspicious.

The Fosse Neighbourhood Team arrested a man on two serious drugs related charges, who will now be enjoying porridge for breakfast until 2029.

Additionally, four more positive arrests due to the individuals being found in possession of drugs, and a male was caught dealing on the Rally. A good outcome for April as drugs are one of Fosse Beat's main priorities.

How To Choose Sunglasses That Suit Your Face Shape



ALAN BELLAMY

Alan Bellamy is the senior optometrist at Bellamy Eyecare, serving Leicester and Irthlingborough communities for over 22 years.

Have you ever stood in front of a rack of sunglasses, trying on pair after pair, and thought, "Why don't any of these suit me?" You're not alone. In my 22 years of helping optical patients in Leicester and Irthlingborough, I've heard this frustration countless times. Finding sunglasses that look and feel great isn't just about fashion – it's about understanding your face shape and picking frames that enhance your natural features.

Here's my quick guide to finding your perfect sunglasses, making your choice easier and much more enjoyable:

Oval Face Shape

You're in luck – most styles look good on you. Try:

- Square or rectangular frames: These add nice structure.
- Round or aviator styles: Offer a softer, classic look.
- Oversized frames: Bold, stylish, yet balanced.

Round Face Shape

The trick here is to create contrast and definition with:

- Rectangular or square frames: Add clear angles.
- Wayfarers: Timeless and flattering.
- Quick tip: Avoid round frames; they'll emphasise the roundness of your face.

Square Face Shape

(Known for strong jawlines). They benefit from softer shapes like:

- Aviators: Always look great.
- Cat-eye sunglasses: Elegant, softens features beautifully.
- Quick tip: Steer clear of boxy frames, as they can accentuate harsh lines.

Heart-Shaped Face

(Wider at the forehead and tapering gently to the chin.) Balance with:

- Aviator or round frames: Draw attention downward nicely.
- Light-coloured or rimless styles: Soften and flatter your forehead area.
- Wayfarers or cat-eye styles: Highlight those lovely cheekbones.
- Quick tip: Oversized frames can exaggerate your forehead width, so avoid them.

Diamond Face Shape

(Distinguished by prominent cheekbones) They suit:

- Oval or rimless frames: Provide a balanced, refined appearance.
- Cat-eye or semi-rimless styles: Enhance your cheekbones elegantly.
- Quick tip: Avoid very narrow frames, as they tend to elongate your face.

A final word...

Choosing sunglasses can feel tricky, but at Bellamy Eyecare, my team and I enjoy making this easier for you. We offer friendly, personalised advice and help you choose lenses, including prescription sunglasses, to ensure your vision is clear and comfortable.

Why not pop in to browse our collection or book an eye appointment today? We're here to help you find sunglasses you'll absolutely love wearing.



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D	V	E	G	G	I	E	S

Can You Solve The Word Wang? Hidden in the
above box are the following words:

Bunny, Eggs, Kitchen, Veggies, Chocs, England,
Tulips, Easter, Europe, Vegan, Sits, Sirs.

Answers: westernparkgazette.co.uk © Paul Towers

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